



C. Dukes Scott
Executive Director

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

1401 Main Street
Suite 850
Columbia, SC 29201

November 4, 2015

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire
Chief Clerk & Administrator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Background Information Relevant to the Commission's August 27, 2015, Public Hearing on Duke Energy's Foothills Transmission and Substation Project – 45-Mile Transmission Line between Asheville, N.C., Power Plant and New Substation Near Campobello, S.C., **Docket No.: 2015-305-E**

and

Duke Energy Carolinas: Foothills Transmission and Substation Project – 45-Mile Transmission Line Between Asheville, N.C., Power Plant and New Substation Near Campobello, S.C., **Docket No.: ND-2015-20-E**

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Upon receipt of Duke Energy's filing in these dockets announcing that the Foothills transmission line and Campobello substation are no longer needed for the Company's revised Western Carolinas Modernization plan, the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) requests that these dockets be closed. The Company is no longer planning on filing a transmission siting application for this project.

The ORS thanks the Commission for expeditiously granting our request for a public hearing in this matter, and we extend our gratitude to Commissioner Lib Fleming and Ms. Jocelyn Boyd for their hard work in ensuring that the public's voice be heard at the night hearing on August 27, 2015, in Campobello, South Carolina. That hearing was instrumental in reaching this result.

Both public interest and environmental impact are important standards uniquely at issue in siting application cases. Duke Energy was correct in announcing its routes and soliciting community and stakeholder comments in order to further assess those factors; clearly, the Company took those comments into consideration. The ORS commends Duke Energy for being responsive and

finding a different path for this project. While the process of gaining necessary information caused concern for those potentially affected, the process worked and the resulting plan is clearly better for all involved.

We are fortunate to have strong engagement from Duke for South Carolina – namely, Clark Gillespy, Heather Shirley Smith, and Duke’s outside counsel Frank Ellerbe and Len Anthony – and we appreciate their efforts. They, as well as other senior leaders from Duke and the teams they work with, worked diligently to develop a revised plan that considered all statutorily required factors and Company-established procedures for developing the best solution to meet this resource need.

Sincerely,



C. Dukes Scott
Executive Director

cc: All Parties of Record